United Nations S/2005/307

Security Council

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10 May 2005

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Letter dated 10 May 2005 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 6 May 2005 (S/2005/306) concerning your intention to appoint Mr. Alvaro de Soto as the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and your Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the information and intention contained in your letter.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
President of the Security Council

05-33927 (E) 110505

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Letter dated 9 May 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 March 2005 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

05-34018 (E) 110505

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 to 31 March 2005.

2. As at 31 March 2005, the total number of troops in theatre was 17,453, including 2,814 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There is no change to the status of partner/non-NATO nation contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo remains relatively calm, despite a recent upturn in political violence, with underlying tension that will continue in the foreseeable future.

5. On 15 March, a bomb exploded in Pristina targeting a vehicle convoy carrying President Rugova.

6. On 24 March, Kosovo Serbs and Albanians held peaceful commemoration rallies for Operation Allied Force, conducted in 1999. The opposing points of view are best illustrated by the fact that Kosovo-Albanians branded the event as a day of hope commemorating the liberation of Kosovo while Kosovo-Serbs remembered the destruction caused by the aerial campaign.

7. The number of cases involving possible surveillance and threats to KFOR facilities and forces has not changed significantly since the last report and does not constitute a change in the assessment of the threat level.

8. In terms of organized crime, the number of incidents doubled in March 2005 compared to February to a total of 82 incidents related to drug, weapons and other smuggling activities. Search operations yielded a large amount of weapons and resulted in seizures of ammunition.

9. Five incidents of counterfeit currency were reported in March 2005 as compared to the three in February. These incidents, which were reported in Pristina, Gnjilane, Glogovac and Srbica, involved 200 and 50 euro banknotes.

10. KFOR continues operations to prevent ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites and remains vigilant in its efforts to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

11. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during March 2005.

Kosovo Protection Corps

12. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps is 3,022 active members, including 158 from the ethnic minorities, of whom 45 are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,809 members, of whom 17 are from

the ethnic minorities. The percentage of minority representation has increased from 4.30 per cent in February to 5.22 per cent in March 2005. Task Force 8 continues to work on recruiting members of ethnic minorities with the aim of fulfilling Standard 8. In terms of the retention of minorities, preliminary results continue to indicated that difficulties stem from low salaries, inadequate infrastructure, the need for a more clearly defined role of KPC and intimidation from within the minorities' own communities and Serb authorities.

13. During March 2005, the Multinational Brigades carried out 88 roll calls. The percentage of personnel absent without permission has increased from 1.26 per cent in February to 1.42 per cent during the reporting period.

14. In March 2005, 72 incidents of illegal weapon finds were recorded. This is a notable increase compared to the 29 incidents that occurred in February 2005.

15. Regular training activities were conducted during the reporting period in accordance with the annual plan. Emergency readiness training working group meetings continue to take place with the aim of standardizing emergency readiness training practice as each Multinational Brigade conducts specialized training within its area of responsibility. KPC members of each pick-up zone are receiving specialized occupational training covering chemical hazard protection and removal, medical aid, engineering, logistics and civil emergency readiness.

Conclusion

16. The general situation in Kosovo remains relatively calm, with underlying tension that will continue in the foreseeable future.